

U.S.S.N. 10/810,912

Remarks

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 4, 9 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is further noted and appreciated by the Applicants.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further incorporate the limitations contained in dependent Claim 4, which is now cancelled as a result.

Independent Claim 5 has been amended to further incorporate the limitations contained in dependent Claim 9, which is now cancelled as a result.

Independent Claim 10 has been amended to further incorporate the limitations contained in dependent Claim 13, which is now cancelled as a result.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15, 16, 18 and 20 are pending in the application.

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Claims 4,9 and 13 are objected to.

Claims 1,5,10,15,16,18 and 20 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1,5,10,15,16,18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Independent Claims 1,5 and 10 have been amended to alleviate the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC § 112. A reconsideration for these claims and their dependent Claims 15,16,18 and 20 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1,3,5,8,10,12,15,18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Timmermans et al '781 in view of Inaba et al '043.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claim 4. The newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore equivalent to dependent Claim 4

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being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base Claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Independent Claim 5 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claim 9. The newly amended independent Claim 5 is therefore equivalent to the dependent Claim 9 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base Claim 5, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable.


Independent Claim 10 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claim 13. The newly amended independent Claim 10 is therefore equivalent to dependent Claim 13 being rewritten into independent form including all the limitations contained in the base Claim 10, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable.

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1, 5, 10 and their dependent Claims 15, 16, 18 and 20 are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully solicited from the Examiner.

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In the event that the present invention as claimed is not in condition for allowance for any reason, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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